



The following was received by ACER/CART from the Office of Pharmaceutical Management, Health Policy Branch, Health Canada, in response to a query about the National Pharmacare Program sent by the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers to the Minister of Health.

Dear Bill Berryman,

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 28, 2025, to the Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, concerning the status of national pharmacare. We thank you for sharing your concerns and those of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers. We apologize for the delay in responding.

The management of prescription drugs is a shared responsibility in Canada. The federal government is responsible for assessing the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs before authorizing them for sale in Canada. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the delivery of health care for their residents, including determining which drugs are reimbursed and under what conditions for their eligible populations in public drug plans.

The *Pharmacare Act*, which received Royal Assent on October 10, 2024, provides a broad framework with general principles to guide collaboration on initiatives related to drug coverage in Canada. The Act enables funding for provinces and territories, if such agreements are made, to implement universal coverage to a range of contraception and diabetes medications at little to no cost.

The Act also sets out work on a national formulary, a national bulk purchasing strategy, and a pan-Canadian appropriate use strategy led by Canada's Drug Agency, at the request of the Minister of Health, in addition to a report from a Committee of Experts to advise on operating and financing national pharmacare. These reports have been delivered and are now publicly available. Note that Canada's Drug Agency is an independent organization, created and funded by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments — its funding, governance and mandate are not tied to the *Pharmacare Act*.

The Government of Canada has signed bilateral agreements with four jurisdictions - Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Yukon - to make a range of contraception and diabetes medications free or low cost, and to improve access to diabetes devices and supplies. The Government of Canada is committed to protecting those agreements. More information can be found on Health Canada's website [here](#).

The government remains focused on empowering Canadians—by lowering costs, expanding opportunity, and protecting the vital social programs Canadians rely on, including pharmacare.

In the face of difficult financial pressures, the government is focused on fiscal discipline and building Canada's economy. We will continue to work with our health partners, including provinces and territories, to improve access to affordable medications for all Canadians, while controlling federal spending. We would like to thank you again for taking the time to share your enquiry, and hope this information is helpful.

If you require further clarification or have questions about the information provided in this reply, you can contact Daniel MacDonald, Director General, Office of Pharmaceutical Management Strategies, Health Policy Branch, at daniel.macdonald@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Office of Pharmaceutical Management Stratégies/Bureau des stratégies de gestion des produits pharmaceutiques

Health Policy Branch/Direction générale de la politique de santé
Health Canada / Santé Canada